

REMARKS

This Response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated January 15, 2004. Claims 1, 7, 17, 31, 39, 42, 52, 58 and 61 have been amended. No new matter has been added in these amendments. A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is submitted herewith. A Petition for a Three-Month Extension of Time to respond to the Office Action is submitted herewith. A check in the amount of \$1130 is submitted herewith to cover the cost of the three-month extension of time and the Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement. Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any insufficiency of payment.

Claims 17 to 51 and 61 were objected to based on informalities. Claims 1 through 30, 52 and 58 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 39, 41 to 43, 52 to 53 and 61 to 62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,561,904 to Locke et al. ("*Locke*"). Claims 2, 5, 7 to 38, 40, 44 to 51 and 54 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Locke.

Claims 17 to 51 and 61 were objected to because of informalities. Applicants have amended claims 17, 31, 39 and 61 to correct the informalities.

Claims 1 to 30, 52 and 58 to 60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Specifically, the Patent Office states that certain of these claims include terms which have insufficient antecedent basis. Applicants have amended Claims 1, 7, 17, 52 and 58 to provide sufficient antecedent basis for the elements stated in each of these claims. These amendments were made to clarify the claims and not to distinguish the claims over the prior art.

The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 39, 41 to 43, 52 to 53 and 61 to 62 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Locke*. Applicants respectfully submit that *Locke* is not prior art of the present invention.

Applicants hereby submit, under 35 U.S.C. § 1.131 an Affidavit of Anthony J. Baerlocher, a named inventor of the present invention. This Affidavit establishes that prior to the effective date of *Locke*, September 10, 2001, the Applicants conceived and

reduced to practice the claimed invention. The Affidavit of Mr. Baerlocher establishes that the claimed invention was conceived and reduced to practice at least as early as July 13, 2001. Exhibit A, which is attached to the Affidavit of Anthony J. Baerlocher, includes two screen shots of the "Addams Family - Cousin It" game, which is one commercial embodiment of a game incorporating the claimed invention. Specifically, the screen shots illustrate two free spins in a free spins game. A "5X" multiplier is associated with one free spin of the set of reels shown on page 1. An "8X" multiplier is associated with the next free spin of the reels. Therefore, the screen shots illustrate a changing multiplier associated with the free spins game.

IGT's backup computer file listing attached as Exhibit B shows that the screen shots of the Addams Family - Cousin It game were conceived at least as early as July 13, 2001. Accordingly, the above documents provide evidence that the claimed invention was conceived and reduced to practice before September 10, 2001.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that *Locke* is not prior art of the present invention under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and Claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 39, 41 to 43, 52 to 53 and 61 to 62 are in condition for allowance.

The Office Action rejected Claims 2, 5, 7 to 38, 40, 44 to 51 and 54 to 60 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Locke*. As described above, Applicants respectfully submit that *Locke* is not prior art of the present invention.

An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for formal allowance and in the absence of more pertinent art such action is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this Response, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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